

## **PREPARING YOUR CAR FOR SHIPMENT**

*Grafenwoehr Law Center*—It's that time of the year again: school's out for summer, and the season for rotations is upon us. A number of different people will have access to your vehicle at various times while it is being transported from Europe to the United States. Everyone shipping a vehicle should therefore be aware of Army claims rules concerning what may and may not be left inside cars during shipment.

### **What You May Ship in Your Car**

Normal accessories (jacks, tire irons, tire chains, fire extinguishers, tire inflaters, first-aid kits, jumper cables, and warning triangles) may be left in the car. Up to \$200 worth of tools for emergency repairs may remain in the car while it is being shipped, but power tools must be shipped separately. One spare tire and two snow tires with wheels (either mounted or unmounted) may also be shipped inside the car.

Comfort and convenience items for the trip to the pick-up point, such as luggage racks, thermos bottles, bottle warmers, car cushions, and a blanket, may be left inside the vehicle. Parents may likewise store in the vehicle cribs and child-restraint seats used for the movement of children to the pick-up point.

Stereo equipment may only be shipped if it is permanently bolted to the vehicle. Audio components that are merely attached to a slide are not considered to be permanently bolted to a vehicle, and the Army may not pay for the loss of gear affixed to sliding mounts.

Everything that is left in the vehicle should be clearly and specifically listed on the DD Form 788, with a specific identification as to both the nature of the item and its condition at tender.

### **What You Must Not Ship in Your Car**

Televisions, VCRs, and CB radios, even if permanently mounted, are not authorized for shipment in private vehicles. These items should be dismounted and shipped with household goods. Radar detectors, on the other hand, should not be shipped in your car or with your household goods, because the Army claims regulation does not allow payment for any lost or damaged radar detector. Leaving cellular telephones, compact discs, and audio cassettes in a vehicle poses a substantial risk of theft, and loss of such items is not compensable by the Army.

Both common sense and the claims regulation forbid the shipment of flammable or hazardous substances, including flares, waxes, solvents, oils, polishes, and cans with pressurized contents. Propane tanks, even those that have been purged of gas, cannot be sent in any DoD-sponsored shipment.

### **Review Your Insurance Policy**

The Army can pay only \$20,000 for the total loss or destruction of a vehicle during shipment. For all the audio equipment in a vehicle—which includes radios, CD players, cassette players, speakers, amplifiers, equalizers, antennas, burglar alarm systems, and all accessory wiring—the maximum allowable under the claims regulation is \$750. The most the Army can pay for tools and a tool-box is \$200. Expensive custom accessories are usually not fully compensable by the Army. With these limitations in mind, servicemembers should purchase additional coverage as necessary to protect their property from the risk of loss.

If you suffer loss or damage to property that may be compensable by the Army, contact your local claims office promptly. In Grafenwoehr, call Grafenwoehr Law Center, DSN 475-8428/civilian (09641) 838 428; at Hohenfels, call Hohenfels Law Center, DSN 466-2401/civilian (09472) 832 401; for Vilseck, call Vilseck Law Center, DSN 476-2240/civilian (09662) 832 240.